

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/843,162	04/11/97	MANN	J 515-001

PM41/1223

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EXAMINER

CHIN SHUE,A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

DATE MAILED: 12/23/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

## Office Action Summary

Application No.	08/843162	Applicant(s)	M. G. M.
Examiner	A. Chin-Shui	Group Art Unit	3634

**—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—**

### Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE 30 <sup>DAY(S)</sup> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

### Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10.16.88.
- This action is **FINAL**.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15-32 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15-32 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All  Some\*  None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

### Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_  Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of References Cited, PTO-892  Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Action Summary

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Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-15,31,32 drawn to a tree stand, classified in class 182, subclass 187.
- II. Claims 16-25 and 28-30 , drawn to a support structure with a seat, classified in class 297, subclass 251.
- III. Claim 26 is , drawn to a support structure, classified in class 297, subclass 452.18.
- IV. Claim 27, drawn to a seat, classified in class 297, subclass 452.13.

1. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II, III, IV are related as combination and subcombination.

Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed as evidence by the broad recitation of the support structure and seat therein. The subcombinations II, III, and IV have separate utilities such as a seat used by itself or other structures not having a platform, a support structure used only as a arm rest, and a hammock, respectively.

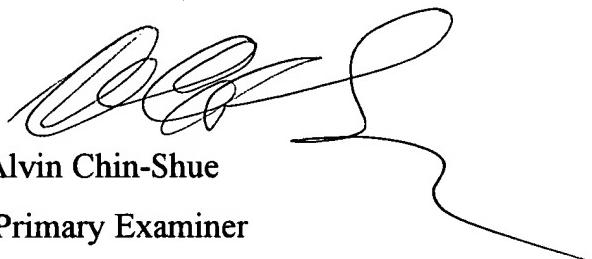
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Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Alvin Chin-Shue at telephone number (703) 308-2475. A message can be recorded at the above number at anytime.

The fax phone number for this group is (703) 305-3597.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number (703) 308-2168.



Alvin Chin-Shue  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3634